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Tuesday, December 16, 1913.

NEED OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

Most Republicans will adopt the "open mind" policy in regard to the calling of a special National convention. We shall see what we shall see, but without endorsing a National convention, we can detect no harm in the present conference of the National Committee. An exchange of ideas among those who advocate or oppose a convention or those who maintain an open mind should result in a clearing of the atmosphere that will give a better vision to Republicans and Progressives alike.

It is proposed by some that the special convention should adopt a platform—a middle ground—for Republicans and Progressives. Political inclusion will suggest to the members of the committee that this is entering upon a perilous venture. If a convention meets a middle ground will be discussed, but it would seem unwise to adopt a declaration of principles so far in advance of the National convention. Issues which loom large now may be considered of much less importance in 1916. Some of the reform fads of today may melt into thin air, and other reforms that arouse only casual interest at this time may have proved of significance and of high value three years from now.

If the Republicanism of Lincoln and of McKinley should be swept aside at a special convention to make way for the principles advocated by the radical Progressives, we would find the Republican party in a strange and almost impossible position in 1916. Then both the Republican and Democratic parties would be radical. We would have a campaign in which no conservative party would participate. In this country, and in fact in all the countries where representative government obtains to a greater or less extent, it has been considered essential that there should be conservative and radical parties. We would be going far upon uncharted seas, therefore, if we utterly cast aside conservatism and turned all our political controversies over to the radicals. Indeed, it would be shameful folly. What can the Republican party hope to gain in a campaign where it is not deemed the conservative party? If the good things in government for which it has stood mean nothing, then the fads and fancies of the Progressives may be deemed the height of political wisdom. But if we admit that, we concede that the science of government which seemingly has advanced step by step for thousands of years is nothing better than a delusion. What have all the struggles of the English-speaking peoples availed if they have only succeeded in founding institutions that are to be swept aside in a few months or a few years as mere chaff by enthusiasts who boast that they are the world's only true progressives?

We do not believe that the Republican party will abandon its conservative principles. Our recent experiences in this country with various reforms, such as the direct primary, have not been so convincing that we need fear to remain conservative, and it is safe to predict that other reforms, such as the recall of judges and the recall of judicial decisions, if they obtain a foothold will turn out disappointments. Moreover, the Democratic administration is not such a brilliant success that the Republican party should be persuaded to abandon its ancient doctrines. We may well believe that three years from now the conservatives in politics will have a much better reason for existence than they have had at any time since the days of Cleveland.

The Spanish government has asked the United States to work in its interest in Mexico. Spain hasn't as much interest in Mexico as formerly.

THE RETURN OF WILLIAM STEAD.
When will the spiritualistic mediums get beyond the kindergarten stage? When will the spirits materialized for our enlightenment be able to convey information above the mental level of five-year-old children?

The world has heard much lately about the pledge of the great editor, William T. Stead, to return in the spirit and communicate with his friends. The Tribune printed yesterday a special cable from London describing a seance in which such celebrities as Sir Oliver Lodge, Major General Alfred Turner, Lady Linn Mackenzie and Lady Duff Gordon participated. When the spirit of Editor Stead was materialized by the aged medium, Cecil Husk, he politely remarked to Lady Duff-Gordon that they had been passengers aboard the ill-starred Titanic. Of course, Lady Duff-Gordon and all the world knew this, and we may concede that it was merely Mr. Stead's courteous way of opening the conversation, but in the communication that followed he offered nothing of any more value than can be gleaned from the ordinary tea table chatter. The spirit recalled that the band aboard the Titanic started to play ragtime immediately after the vessel had crashed into the iceberg, and he noted the important fact that he and Lady Duff-Gordon met and exchanged a few words. He then proceeded to state that John Jacob Astor, who went to death with him on that fatal night, was trying to communicate with friends on earth, but had been unable to do so because he had not progressed far enough in the spiritualistic science.

This was all the ghost of Mr. Stead had to communicate and he wrote it on a slate like so many other materialized spirits, who, we should imagine, would have discovered in the world beyond the grave some better or equally good method of expressing themselves to mortals.

Among the spirits materialized was Sir William De Morgan, the English buccannier who raided the Spanish main during the reign of Charles II. It is said that his spirit answered questions put by members of the "Occult Circle," but we are not told that he conveyed any useful information. It has been the belief or the delusion of many million of human beings since the world began that those who leave this life and join the "Choir Invisible" gain a knowledge far above and beyond the limited ken of this sphere. If such is the case, why is not Sir William De Morgan able to tell us something about the future of the Panama canal, for example. It was this same bold sea rover who lay in wait for the Spanish traders on the great highway of commerce that once traversed the Isthmus from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and it was he who seized the old town of Panama from the Spanish. We might suppose that he was still interested in all questions pertaining to the Isthmus and that he would be able to tell us some of the commercial and political consequences of the canal.

Those who have had some acquaintance with seances will remember that usually the spirits rise no higher in the plane of intelligence than the medium through whom their communications are made. If the medium speaks bad English, the spirit-writing on the slate contains the medium's customary errors of language. The account of the "Occult Circle" seance states that Cardinal Newman, who, according to some critics, wrote the best English of his day—a day in which Macaulay and DeQuincy also wrote their literary splendors—appeared in the charmed circle, but was unable to express himself at all. In view of Editor Stead's volubility, we may perhaps assume that this was another triumph of newspaper English.

When such a man as Sir Oliver Lodge shares in a spiritualistic seance and indorses its results, any reasonable person hesitates to denounce the seance as sheer trickery, but just as a cat may gaze at a king, so an humble critic may well ask if this is not Sir Oliver's blind side? What guarantee had the members of the "Occult Circle" that they were in communication with the spirit of Mr. Stead? Granting that a spirit did appear and did write upon the slate, may it not have been the spirit of someone else? In this world we have a class of men who forge checks and obtain money under false pretenses. Are all the spirits of the other world good, or are there multitudes of them impish and demoniacal? As a matter of fact, the chief religions of the world have taught the existence of good and bad spirits as well as of good and bad men. Why is it not possible, therefore, that some impish spirit or some Puck of the underworld may not have been passing himself off as Editor Stead?

All this by way of enforcing the original question with reference to the meager and childish information elicited at the customary seance. In this age when so many leading scientists boast that they submit all problems to the acid test of reason, why do we find such a great scientist as Sir Oliver Lodge readily accepting the kindergarten communications of the "Occult Circle"?

GREECE ADVANCING.
The island of Crete has passed into the hands of the Greeks, the Hellenic flag has been run up over the fort at Candia by King Constantine in the presence of an enthusiastic multitude of people from all parts of the kingdom, and the protectorate established

by Russia, Great Britain, France, and Italy in 1898 has been terminated. The island of Crete is an important addition to the territory of Greece. It is 136 miles long, is from 7 to 39 miles wide, and has an area of 3330 square miles. High mountains, covered with forests, run through the whole length of the island in several ranges. Numerous springs give fertility to most of the valleys, in which there is a luxuriant vegetation. The sides of the mountains are also covered with succulent grasses. Grain, wine, oil, wool, flax, silk, cotton, fish, honey, game, cattle, fruits, and metal are produced in abundance, but manufactures, trade and navigation are insignificant.

In referring to Crete the mind reverts at once to the fables of Greek mythology, in which Saturn, Zeus and Minos are spoken of as among its kings. At one time it was a republic; then it was conquered by the Cretan pirates; the Romans came next, and then, in 823, it passed into the hands of the Saracens, the Greeks coming once more into possession in the year 962. In 1204 the Byzantine sovereign sold it to the Venetians, who held it until the second half of the seventeenth century, when we read of it being conquered by the Turks after a desperate struggle, the siege of the capital lasting no less than twenty years.

Insurrections against Turkish rule have been numerous; a formidable uprising, fomented by the Greeks, occurred in 1865, but the Turks were victorious after a long fight. Discontent with the rule of the Sultan led to almost continual revolt. In 1898 the powers above mentioned assumed a protectorate and King George of Greece was made high commissioner.

In ancient times the population of this island in the Mediterranean was estimated at 1,200,000 souls; at the time of its purchase by the Venetians the inhabitants numbered about 900,000. Today there are probably less than 500,000 people, a great majority of them being Christians and of Greek descent.

The recent war with the Turks, followed by the desperate and bloody conflict between the allies, has added greatly to the power as well as the territory of Greece. It is even predicted that the country, now that it has emerged from centuries of bondage and oppression, will take its place among the truly great nations of the earth.

The advance so far made encourages one to speculate as to the future. Will the descendants of the heroes of Marathon, Salamis, Artemisium, Plataea, and a hundred other conflicts be able to write their names in large letters on the deathless page of history? Another Alexander of Macedonia is of course an impossibility, but there are Spartans, Plataeans, Boeotians, Athenians, and natives of the other states which figured so largely in the affairs of men at the time and for hundreds of years after the first history was written who are just now filled with the loftiest aspirations. Whether they will be able to place their country in a commanding position is a question for the future, but a moderate amount of success is seemingly assured.

To the late King George, the present King Constantine, and to Premier Venizelos must be ascribed the credit for planning the recent achievements, but the Greek soldier, animated by love of country and fired with ambition for her future welfare, right nobly bore his part in battle with the Turk and made realization of the dream of centuries.

Another war and the Sultan may be forced to cross into Asia Minor and a Greek ruler reign in Constantinople in his stead, the cross displacing the crescent on St. Sophia's spire. It was under a Constantine that the empire of the east went down; under a Constantine it may rise again.

Italy and France are quarreling over a painted lady. We hope it will not come to a duel.

The Order of Carabao seem to have gone altogether too far in their banquet satire. Is Carabao a drink?

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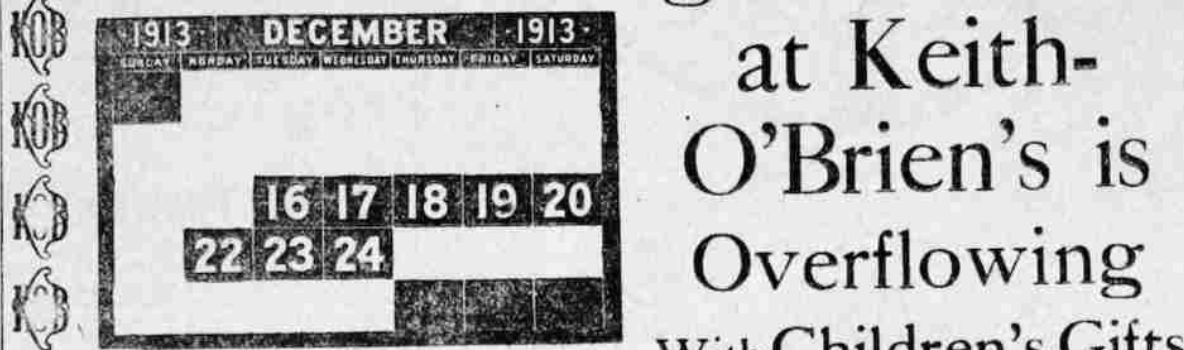
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